

## REPTILIA: SQUAMATA: SERPENTES: TYPHLOPIDAE

## TYPHLOPS GONAVENSIS

## Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Thomas, R. and R. Powell. 1995. *Typhlops gonavensis*.

*Typhlops gonavensis* Richmond

*Typhlops gonavensis* Richmond, 1964:3. Type-locality, "from Point à Raquette, on the south shore of Gonave Island, Haiti." Type-specimen, Yale University Peabody Museum (YPM) 3003, an adult (sex unknown), collected by P.S. Humphrey and S. Van Vleck on 9 April 1959 (not examined by authors).

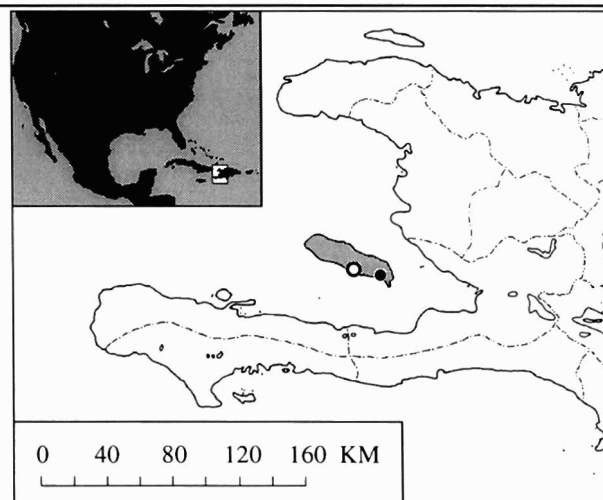
*Typhlops capitulatus gonavensis*: Thomas, 1965:438.

*Typhlops capitulata gonavensis*: Schwartz and Thomas, 1975: 196.

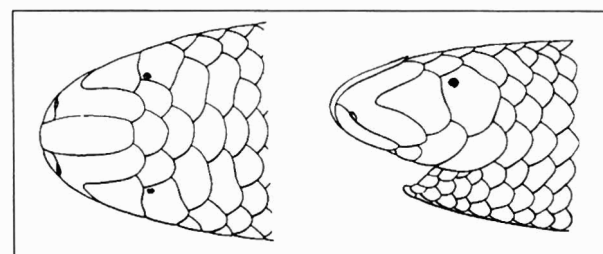
• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** *Typhlops gonavensis* is a small blind snake characterized by (see Thomas, 1976 and 1989, for complete explanations of characters): (1) tapered head and a somewhat flattened, rounded to weakly pointed head; (2) rostral broad in dorsal aspect (RW/RL 0.48-0.63), clavate to oval, not flared on apex, labial margin slightly flared; (3) preocular angle 30-50°, apex round to angulate, lower portion contacting only the 3rd of upper labials; (4) ocular length about 3/4 height, sinuosity 0.30-0.13; (5) rostronasal pattern calyculate to weakly divergent; (6) postoculars 2 and cycloid; (7) 1st parietal standard, width spanning 2 scale rows (occasionally absent); (8) 2nd parietal standard, width spanning 2 scale rows (occasionally absent); (9) TL to 220 mm; (10) TL/tail length is 38-54 (males) and 50-88 (females); (11) TL/midbody diameter 46-57; (12) middorsal scales number 399-455; (13) scale rows 20-20; (14) coloration is unicolor dark reddish brown grading to burnt umber on the tail and with unpigmented areas around the mouth and vent; (15) rectal caecum present, but small; (16) hemipenes expanded (but none completely everted); (17) cranium pronouncedly tapered, width across prefrontals 77-87% of width across prootics; (18) premaxilla narrow, about 30% of width across prefrontals, not protuberant, inset between nasals in a shallow V, posteroventral edges angled forward and meeting the blade in an angular junction, blade narrow; (19) nasals elongate with no lateral angles, bordering the narial opening; (20) septomaxilla without sliver, anterior portion not tapered; (21) frontal-parietal suture V-shaped, sinuous; (22) frontal without an anterior blade- or wedgelike process; (23) optic foramen canalicular; (24) postorbital process of parietal very reduced or absent; (25) parietal without temporal ridges; (26) lappet of prootic blunt, extending beyond a very short tongue, tongue not extending to parietal; (27) supraoccipitals fused with exoccipitals; (28) exoccipitals fused with prootics; (29) angular not sliverlike; (30) dorsal process of quadrate with a pronounced hook; (31) atlantal hypapophysis tablike, 4-5 total hypapophyses; (32) hyoid with a Y-shaped basihyal having a short entoglossal process, ceratobranchials long; (33) pelvis absent or extremely reduced to small bones of indeterminate homology.

• **Diagnosis.** This small blind snake may be distinguished from its congeners by the following combination of characters: maximum TL 220 mm, TL/tail length 38-54 (males) and 50-88 (females), TL/midbody diameter 46-57, middorsal scales 399-455, scale rows 20-20, and coloration unicolor dark reddish brown grading to burnt umber on the tail and with unpigmented areas around the mouth and vent.



**Map.** Distribution of *Typhlops gonavensis* (modified from Schwartz and Henderson, 1991). The large circle marks the type-locality, dots indicate other records.



**Figure.** Head of the holotype of *Typhlops gonavensis* (YPM 3003) (from Richmond, 1964).

• **Descriptions.** Richmond (1964) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991) provided descriptions of this species.

• **Illustrations.** Line drawings of the head are in Richmond (1964).

• **Distribution.** The species is known from xeric and mesic habitats only on the Île de la Gonâve, Haiti.

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** Richmond (1964) described the species and Thomas (1976) provided a systematic treatise. The species is included in checklists and guides (often as a subspecies of *T. capitulatus*) by Schwartz and Thomas (1975), Henderson and Schwartz (1984), Henderson et al. (1984), Schwartz and Henderson (1988, 1991), and Powell et al. (1996). Thomas (1989) discussed relationships with Antillean congeners.

• **Etymology.** The name *gonavensis* refers to the restricted range of the species on Gonâve Island.

• **Remark.** Frank and Ramus (1995) proposed the common name "Gonave Island worm snake" for this species.

## Literature Cited

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